

## Online Supplement

Activities during 1994-2004 of the Finnish asthma programme. Some activities would have taken place even without the programme, but it facilitated their implementation.

Activity type	Activities
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised anti-smoking legislation 1995 (smoking forbidden in many public places), 2000 (restricted smoking in restaurants, smoke classified as a carcinogen)</li> <li>• Outdoor (1996), indoor (1997) air regulations, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</li> <li>• Modified drug reimbursement regulations (6-month obligatory follow-up for new asthmatics)</li> </ul>
Leadership, guidance, advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Asthma Follow-up Group (1994-1998)</li> <li>• Base organisation: The Finnish Lung Health Association (Filha)</li> <li>• Nomination of regional asthma contact specialists</li> </ul>
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further training; national, regional, local</li> <li>• Forums:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o National asthma forum annually every other year since 1993</li> <li>o Research forums 1998, 2000, 2002</li> <li>o National respiratory care forum, 1996–2004 (7 occasions)</li> <li>o Asthma contact-person forums (2 occasions)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Development of medical training material (e.g., textbooks in Finnish: <i>Pulmonary medicine</i> (1997, revised 2000, 2005), <i>Allergology</i> (1999, revised 2006), <i>Asthma</i> (2000))</li> </ul>
Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local asthma contact persons (n = 913; 28% physicians)</li> <li>• Asthma pharmacy contact persons (n = 695)</li> <li>• Professional and public health organisations (n = 20)</li> </ul>
Materials, information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asthma programme 1994-2004</li> <li>• Asthma education material, guided self-management training packages</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asthma Week; information for general public annually (by pharmacies and patient organisations)</li> <li>• Public guidance by phone since 1994; Allergy and Asthma Federation, Pulmonary Association HELI</li> </ul>
Improving diagnostics and treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional action plans and treatment (referral) chains (internet version or paper)</li> <li>• Evidence-based treatment guidelines 2000, revision 2006</li> <li>• Guided self-management programme</li> <li>• Pharmacy programme 1997</li> <li>• Allergy treatment consensus report 1998</li> <li>• Guidelines for measurement of spirometry and peak-flow since 1995</li> <li>• Early diagnosis and spirometry campaign 2002</li> <li>• Childhood asthma mini-programme 2002</li> </ul>
Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up report 1998, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health</li> <li>• Yearly follow-up report on institutional care (National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Stakes)</li> <li>• Tailor-made local follow-up reports since 2000</li> <li>• Specific reports and publications</li> <li>• Presentations in international and domestic conferences</li> </ul>